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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to solemnly state the following:

1. At the just-concluded general debate of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, representatives of a very small number of countries, in disregard of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the basic norms of international law and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, openly brought up the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation" at the United Nations and advocated "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "one country, two seats" in their statements. The Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation at and strong opposition to this move which not only tramples on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), but also constitutes a serious encroachment upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a gross interference in its internal affairs.

2. Taiwan has been an inalienable part of the Chinese territory since ancient times. Both the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation clearly declared the return of Taiwan to China from the colonial rule of Japan after the Second World War, thus affirming once again China's sovereignty over Taiwan. The 159 countries that have established diplomatic relations with China so far all recognize that there is but one China in the world and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

Twenty-five years ago, the General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session, adopted by an overwhelming majority resolution 2758 (XXVI) on the question of China's representation, which clearly and unequivocally recognizes "that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only

lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent representatives of the Security Council". Pursuant to that resolution, all the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and all its agencies were restored to it. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) has accurately reflected the political situation in China since 1949, thus settling once and for all and in a just manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations politically, legally and procedurally, and at the same time rendering invalid the proposal on the so-called "dual representation" sponsored at that time by a very small number of countries.

3. The United Nations is an intergovernmental international organization. Article 4 of the Charter provides in explicit terms that only sovereign States are entitled to the membership of the United Nations. The "principle of universality" is based on sovereign States. Taiwan, which has never been a sovereign State, but rather a province of China, has no qualifications whatsoever to join the United Nations. Therefore, the "principle of universality" is not applicable to it at all.

The question of Taiwan is also different in nature from the questions of Germany and Korea, which were brought about by international agreements at the end of the Second World War. It is therefore untenable and absurd to argue for Taiwan's "membership in the United Nations" based on the model of "parallel representation" of East and West Germany and that of North and South Korea.

4. In accordance with the principle of international law, the so-called "Government of the Republic of China" had ceased to exist upon the founding of the People's Republic of China. Elections or any other activities carried out in the Province of Taiwan, in whatever name, are activities at the local level and can therefore never be used as the basis to "split the country and rule under separate regimes". Whatever change that is made to the way in which leaders of Taiwan are produced cannot change the fact that Taiwan is a part of China and that Taiwan's leaders are leaders of a region of China. It is futile for any country or individual to legalize the secessionist activities by the Taiwan authorities on the ground that the way in which Taiwan's leaders are produced has changed. This move is also bound to meet with strong opposition from the Chinese Government and the entire Chinese people.

The attempts by the Taiwan authorities to "join the United Nations" and "expand living space in the world", though under new guises, are in the final analysis aimed at splitting China, creating "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "Taiwan independence". Should the Taiwan authorities, bent on having their own way, continue to carry out activities aimed at splitting China, there are bound to be tensions in the Taiwan Straits, posing a threat to peace, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole. Support by any country and individual for the secessionist activities by the Taiwan authorities constitutes an obstacle to China's peaceful reunification and is therefore bound to meet with strong opposition from the Chinese Government and people and the vast numbers of justice-upholding and peace-loving Members of the United Nations.

5. In July this year, a few members of the European Parliament brought up by playing tricks a resolution on the so-called "Taiwan's role in international organizations", which openly advocates Taiwan's participation in some international organizations with a view to bringing Taiwan back to the United Nations. This is an attempt to deliberately undermine the friendly relations between China and Europe, in disregard of the basic norms governing international relations and in violation of the principles on the establishment of diplomatic relations between European countries and China. Such a perverse act which goes against the historical trend and general desire of the European people has not only met with strong opposition from the European people who support Sino-European friendship, but also been held in contempt by the vast numbers of justice-upholding countries and people. It is therefore futile and doomed to failure for a very small number of countries to invoke this resolution in their statements as the basis for their support for the secessionist activities by the Taiwan authorities.

6. It is the lofty mission and common aspiration of the entire Chinese people including the Taiwan compatriots as well as an irresistible historical trend to end the state of separation between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and accomplish the grand cause of national reunification of China. The Taiwan authorities must desist from secessionist activities aimed at creating "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "return to the United Nations" in the world and take the "one China" principled position not only in words but also in deeds. Only in this way can dialogue between the two sides of the Straits be resumed and relations between the two sides develop normally.

The Chinese Government and people have won support from an overwhelming majority of countries in their just cause of safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity. The flat refusal by the General Committees of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since the forty-eighth session to include the question of the so-called "Taiwan's representation" in the agenda of the General Assembly has fully reflected the firm stand of an overwhelming majority of Members of the United Nations in safeguarding the authority of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and proved that the proposal on the so-called "Taiwan's representation" put forward by a very small number of countries has no support at all. We wish to advise those countries not to be hoodwinked by the attempt of the Taiwan authorities, to strictly observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the basic norms of international law as well as resolution 2758 (XXVI) and to conform to the historical trend by stopping interfering in China's internal affairs and repeating the same mistake. Otherwise, they will find them in an awkward position in the international community while enjoying no benefit whatsoever themselves.

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
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and Permanent Representative of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations